

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application.

Claims 15-19 have been canceled without prejudice to the filing of one or more divisional applications. In the Restriction Requirement mailed July 25, 2005, the Examiner has required restriction between the claims of Group I (claims 1-14), which are drawn to a process of manufacturing a composite panel, allegedly classified in Class 156, subclass 217, and the claims of Group II (claims 15-19) which are drawn to a product, allegedly classified in class 428, subclass 68. The Examiner takes the position that the inventions of Groups I and II are distinct, and that the invention of Group I is related to the invention of Group II as a process of making and product made. The Examiner further argues that the inventions can be shown to be distinct if the process as claimed can be used to make another and materially different product or that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process. Specifically, the Examiner states that Applicant's product as claimed can be made by a materially different process such as one which applies adhesive only to the second panel.

The Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's arguments in support of restriction, however, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the application on the merits, Applicants hereby provisionally elect, in response to the written restriction requirement, without traverse, the claims of Group I, drawn to a process of manufacturing a composite panel (claims 1-14) for examination on the merits.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned on any questions which might arise at the telephone number indicated below. Reconsideration and an early examination of the claims are respectfully requested.

It is also noted that the Examiner has not yet considered the references of record submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 6, 2005. Applicants assume that this is because the Examiner has not yet issued an Office action to date on the merits. Presumably, the Examiner will provide initialed forms indicating consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement along with the Examiner's next communication.

Reconsideration and examination of the claims as well as a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/748,469
Reply to Restriction Requirement of July 25, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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(Date)

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